

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JOSE ORTIZ,	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	NO. 20-649
Petitioner,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
BERRY SMITH, et al.,	:	
	:	
Respondents.	:	

**O R D E R**

**AND NOW**, this **8th** day of **January, 2021**, upon consideration of the Ortiz's pro se 28 U.S.C. § 2254 petition for writ of habeas corpus (ECF No. 1), the pleadings, the available state record, and the Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate David R. Strawbridge (ECF No. 5), there being no objections,<sup>1</sup> it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

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<sup>1</sup> When neither party files timely objections to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation ("R&R") on a dispositive issue, the district court is not required to review the R&R before adopting it. Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 150 (1985) ("It does not appear that Congress intended to require district court review of a magistrate's factual or legal conclusions, under a de novo or any other standard, when neither party objects to those findings."). However, the Third Circuit has held that "in the absence of objections . . . the better practice is for the district judge to afford some level of review to dispositive legal issues raised by the report." Henderson v. Carlson, 812 F.2d 874, 878 (3d Cir. 1987); see also Fed R. Civ. P. 72, 1983 advisory committee notes ("When no timely objection is filed, the court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.").

In that neither party has filed objections to the R&R, this Court has reviewed it for clear error and has found none. The

1. The Report and Recommendation is **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**;
2. The petition for a writ of habeas corpus is **DENIED AND DISMISSED**;
3. A certificate of appealability **SHALL NOT** issue, in that the Petitioner has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right nor demonstrated that reasonable jurists would debate the correctness of the procedural aspects of this ruling. See 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); and
4. The Clerk of the Court shall mark this case **CLOSED** for statistical purposes.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

/s/ Eduardo C. Robreno  
EDUARDO C. ROBRENO, J.

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three substantive claims raised by Ortiz are meritless as discussed by Judge Strawbridge in the R&R. Ortiz's final claim of ineffective assistance of counsel for failure to present or preserve the first three grounds also fails because counsel cannot be ineffective for failing to raise meritless claims.